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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /074 W
----------037399 181943Z /73
R 171924Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8818
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, FR
SUBJECT: TRADE UNION SPECULATION ON ELECTION EVE

REF: PARIS 5436

1. SUMMARY: ON THE EVE OF THE DECISIVE SECOND ROUND,
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THE REFORMIST UNIONS BELIEVE THAT THE MAJORITY WILL BE
RETURNED TO POWER, AND THAT THIS WILL MEAN NOT ONLY A
LIVELY SPRING, BUT A POSSIBLE REALIGNMENT IN THE
COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION GROUPINGS.
END SUMMARY.

2. WITH THE DECISIVE SECOND ELECTION ROUND APPROACH-

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ING, THE SPECULATION AMONGST THE REFORMIST TRADE UNIONS IS THAT THE MAJORITY IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED RE-ELECTION. SEEN FROM THE TRADE UNION PERSPECTIVE, THE DEFEAT OF THE LEFT IS CERTAIN TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MASSIVE CGT CAMPAIGN, PARTICULARLY IN THE AUTO INDUSTRY, TO PUT AN END TO "AUSTERITY". (WE HAVE INDEPENDENTLY LEARNED THAT RENAULT KNOWS TROUBLE IS COMING AND WHERE.) THE PURPOSE OF THIS CAMPAIGN WILL BE NOT MERELY TO END THE BARRE PLAN (WHICH IS SEEN AS FINISHED ANYWAY), BUT TO TRY TO FORCE A NOW UNWELCOME UNITY OF ACTION UPON THE CFDT. THE HOPE AMONGST THE REFORMISTS IS THAT THAT UNION'S MODERATE WING WILL BE ABLE TO FEND OFF THE CGT EFFORTS, AND PURSUE ITS INTENDED POLICY, WHICH PARALLELS THEIR OWN: SECTOR BY SECTOR NEGOTIATION ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE ANTICIPATED DEFEAT OF THE LEFT IS INTERPRETED AS THE FORERUNNER OF POSSIBLE MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGES, PARTICULARLY AS FAR AS THE PS IS CONCERNED. THUS, ONE SENIOR FO OFFICIAL, HIMSELF A MEMBER OF THE PS, BELIEVES THAT BOTH MITTERRAND AND THE POLICY OF THE ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNISTS ARE FINISHED IF THE LEFT DOES NOT WIN ON SUNDAY. IN SUCH AN EVENT, HE FORESEES AN EFFORT TO CHANGE THAT PARTY AROUND, BREAKING WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CERES ELEMENTS IN THE PROCESS, SO AS TO MOVE INTO ALLIANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S FORCES. IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH A POSSIBLE SHIFT, THAT SAME OFFICIAL -- AMONGST OTHER FO OFFICIALS -- NOTED THAT A WORKING ALLIANCE BETWEEN FO AND THE CFDT MODERATES IS "NOT EXCLUDED".

4. COMMENT: WHILE SPECULATION REMAINS THAT, AND NOTHING MORE, THERE DOES INDEED SEEM TO BE SIGNS OF CHANGE IN THE AIR, AND A TURBULENT SPRING.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS, LABOR POLICY LINE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS09401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0083
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780354/aaaabtti.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 868917c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 PARIS 5436
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3290591
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE UNION SPECULATION ON ELECTION EVE
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, FR
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/868917c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014